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Editorial.

The General Secretary was invited by the Pastors' Union of Finland to give a course of lectures in that country. During his journey through Sweden and the Baltic States and Poland he was able not only to make new contacts, but to obtain an insight into the life of the churches and the social conditions of these lands. The friends who have made the preparations for this journey arranged everywhere for him to come into touch with church leaders, social organisations, groups of business men and labour leaders, Ministers of Labour and theological faculties.

The *Stockholm idea* is making progress in this Lutheran corner of Europe. There is no great social activity in Lutheran circles, but that the preaching of the word not only stimulates faith, but also rouses men to deeds of Christian charity, deepens their sense of responsibility, and wakens the social conscience, is everywhere being increasingly recognised by the Christian community.

Wherever he visited university towns, the General Secretary was invited by the *theological faculties* to give lectures, and thus spoke to the students of Upsala, Helsingfors, Dorpat, and Posen. It is very necessary that men should be won for the Stockholm Movement from the ranks of students of theology, and there are good prospects of success here, although here again we are confronted with the resistance of dialectical theology, which confounds the new-awakening sense of social responsibility with mere social "activities".

Sweden. — The Minister of Social Welfare, Lűbeck, recently brought to a successful conclusion negociations between employers and workers which constitute a preliminary step towards *industrial peace.* These negociations were limited, in the first place, to creating, in both camps, a better knowledge of actual conditions of life and work, and of industrial problems in general. The Minister of Social Welfare mentioned in this connection that similar efforts made in the Student Christian Movement under the leadership of Dr. Bjőrkquist had had a stimulating effect.

A lecture given to the bishops and members of the Swedish synods gave the General Secretary an opportunity of presenting the work of the Institute in the land of its origin, and in the presence of Bishop Billing, one of its founders ; he also spoke of the Cooperative Credit Association of the European Central Bureau, in which much interest was shown.

Archbishop Sőderblom is as active and enthusiastic as ever, but anxiety is still felt with regard to his health.

Finland. — I here spoke at a study-course for Pastors, which was well attended, and at which lectures were also given by Swedish and

Norwegian speakers. Finland han been an industrially developed country for a few decades only, since the growth of the timber trade. The Communist influence in the trade unions however prevents the sort of understanding between employers and workers which exists in Sweden. A group of employers with whom I spent one evening expressed the opinion that on that account a very special responsibility rests upon them. A group of labour leaders, most of them former members of the Labour Government, expects that a split will soon take place between Socialists and Communists in the ranks of labour. Generally speaking, the separation of the workers from the Church is not so pronounced as in Central Europe. In this part of the Baltic lands a labour movement is developing which has this in common with the British Labour Party that it represents the interests of the workers without adopting the well-known Socialist theories and catchwords. Wonderful work for social progress is being done by the *Settlement Work* of the Rev. Sirenius, in Finland. The Finnish theological group to which I spoke, in which the three Bishops Cayla, Gummerus and von Bonnsdorf and other church leaders took part, showed a desire to associate the living Church of Finland, and the whole country in its efforts for advancement, with the great movements of the west, whilst at the same time preserving its own peculiar Lutheran character.

In the Baltic states a strong desire for further development is everywhere to be met with, but it is at present hampered by lack of means. *Estonia* is a country created, as it were, at a moment's notice. It has an advanced system of social and cultural legislation, but its forces are not commensurate with the admirable ideals thus expressed. This is true for example of the Estonian Church Bank, an organisation to which most of the parishes belong, its object being the promotion of the building of churches and presbyteries and the development of social organisations. Both in Estonia and in *Latvia* there is a good understanding between the national and the German and Orthodox Churches. From the point of view of the Stockholm Movement, this is of the greatest importance for relations between the Protestant and Orthodox Churches. The two following facts will show how friendly the relationship is. When Bishop Irbe makes a tour of the churches, not only the bells of the Protestant Churches are rung in the villages, but those of the Orthodox Churches as well. Again, when the German army of occupation proposed to the Lettish Church that it should take over the Orthodox Church, the offer was refused out of consideration for the Orthodox Church.

All these border states are suffering from the burden of maintaining a strong army. Bolchevist Russia is a nightmare to them. They have gone through the experience of Bolshevist persecution in their own

countries. I saw for example the death cellar in Dorpat, where 19 victims, amongst them the Orthodox Bishop Platon and the Protestant Pastor Hahn, were murdered by the Bolshevists. In Riga there are said to have been 33 martyrs of this persecution.

The Church in these Baltic countries is conscious of the great tasks which confront it, and eagerly fosters and desires cooperation with Central and Western Europe. Amongst these tasks in the *development of Home Missions*, the creation of new leaders, and the necessity of dealing thoroughly with the vast religious problems of Russia, especially as regards the support to be given to the Protestant churches and movements, which are calling forth a truly apocalyptic spirit in the east of Europe.

I was unfortunately not able to visit *Lithuania*, owing to the difficulties between it and Poland.

Poland. I was made acquainted with the situation by General Superintendent Bursche. His object is to build up a strong national Protestantism, which would however be large-minded enough to afford the German element in Poland its due rights and influence. These Polish-national aims are naturally productive of conflict, but the tension is beginning to decrease as it is recognised that a *Polish* Protestantism has a certain prospect of receiving recognition and influence in a state with a Catholic and Nationalist government. The expanding theological faculty in Warsaw, which has already more than 100 students, also serves to promote this aim.

Protestantism in Poland, as elsewhere, is seeking to build up its Home Mission, and in Poland proper and also in the institutions of Dr. Zőckler in Galicia, it is already possessed of organisations of this type which are doing excellent social service work.

These organisations are still stronger in *Posen*, where a small German minority is struggling hard to keep alive the old vigorous Protestant life in church and school, and to win for it the right to existence and influence within the Polish national state.

It is natural that the *social problems* which prevail in Central and Western Europe cannot be very acute in a country so preponderantly agricultural as Poland.

An œcumenical evening. — The journey closed with a short stay in Berlin, and an œcumenical evening at the house of the Rev. D. Schreiber, member of the supreme consistorial court. A large group of persons listened to accounts, given by participants, of the various conferences of the present year, the Missionary Council in Williamstown, the Basle Conference, Eisenach, Marburg, the International Federation of Home Missions ; all united in expressing the need of present-day

Christianity for mutual understanding, real co-operation, and better service to our brothers.

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The establishment of an œcumenical building in Geneva is not yet within the sphere of practical politics. A first step towards this will however be taken next spring, when four international Christian organisations will move into a common building and thus create in Geneva a social centre for the international Christian organisations having their headquarters there.

A. Keller.

EISENACH 1929

The meeting of the Continuation Commission at Eisenach from August 29 to September 9 received special importance through the religious services held at the places connected with the memory of Luther. The fact was thus strongly emphasised that the Stockholm Movement is not losing itself in merely organisational activities or in work of a purely technical character, but that it desires that all its efforts should be led and directed by the inspiration of the Gospel.

This point of view was clearly expressed by the opening service on the Wartburg. The Word of God, as given to us by Bishop Ihmels, preceded all the merely human utterances of the discussions. The historical associations, the places of pilgrimage, the Wartburg, the quiet and solitude of the woods round the Burg, the atmosphere of brotherly sympathy, which no differences of opinion came to disturb, induced in the members of the Conference, from the very beginning, a spirit of earnest recollection and waiting on the will of God. In those hours on the Wartburg, during the services at Eisenach and Erfurt and the visit to the Augustinian Monastery, the evening service held by the light of torches in the little village church at Mőhra, where Luther s parents lived, and the address given at Luther's beech-tree, in the Thűringian forest, the members of the Conference felt the full force of the historical memories associated with the district. The œcumenical movement was here in closest contact with the land and people of the German Reformation, and felt, as it were, something of the spirit of Luther himself. J.S. Bach, too, spoke to us through the voice of his Cantatas, heard in the setting of the divine service for which they were originally intended, as they never can be in the concert hall. It was once more manifest that in the services of the Church, in the common act of Worship, the common confession of sin, and the common acceptnace of Divine Grace, we are sensible of a unity which is difficult of attainment even in common thought and action.

The work of the Conference was carried on under the watchwords of *cooperation* and *reorganisation*. The various Commissions have found their special spheres of work and have sought contact with other organisations working in the same direction. These contacts have shown that, on the one hand, the œcumenical movement gains from the experience of these special organisations new life and greater concreteness, and, on the other hand, contact with Stockholm gives to these special organisations an œcumenical outlook and leads them to closer cooperation with the Church. This mutual enrichment has already made itself felt in various spheres. The task of Stockholm is no longer to create something new in a domain where enthusiastic efforts are already being made, but rather to consolidate existing forces. The task of the special organisations is not jealously to guard their own particular sphere of interest, but to make an important contribution to the general effort of the Christian world to-day, in which the consciousness of the Church as a whole, that is, a sense of unity and the need for close cooperation, is beginning to make itself felt anew.

Such cooperation is aimed at and promoted not only as between Stockholm and the special international Christian organisations, but also between Stockholm and the individual church congregations. Here great tasks remain to be accomplished. The means for this must be found locally. The " Compagnons de Stockholm " are seeking to provide the rallying-point for such cooperation in Geneva. In other places an endeavour must be made, through the united efforts of several organisations working along similar lines, to provide a forum in which the local Christian community can come into contact with the world movement ; an example of such work was provided at Eisenach by the public evening meeting at which several speakers dealt with the question of Christianity and Industry.

The Eisenach Conference also recognised that the question of contact with the Orthodox world deserves special study and attention, and therefore appointed a special commission, consisting of Anglicans, Protestants and Orthodox, to develop these relations. The whole East of Europe is still so remote from the western world, and presents so vast a religious problem for Christendom, that a special effort must be made in order that we may become familiar with all the problems of the present situation and so be in a position to lay down the right lines of action. Rome has already done this by the foundation of an Oriental Institute and the organisation of a policy of union.

The task of establishing well-planned cooperation between the various Christian movements was specially entrusted to the Coordination Commission, which is also specially responsible for reorganisation.

Various experiences of the last four years have shown that reorgani-

sation is necessary. First of all, the extension of the Movement itself. The field of work of the Commissions has grown. The business of the Conference itself can only with difficulty be transacted within the limits of a short meeting. This increase of work therefore demands a new division of effort. Another demand for reorganisation comes from the Continuation Committee itself ; this is anxious not to become a mere business committee, but to remain a conference for the discussion of the broad lines of the work. The question therefore arises how the Executive Committee, on the one hand, is to make adequate preparation for the work of the Continuation Committee, and on the other hand, how the Continuation Committee can take a really important and active share in this work. The time for a purely representative or business conference has gone by ; the conference as a real working conference, in which all members have a responsible share, whilst it is at the same time directed by a well-prepared central body, has not yet found its final form.

But the Executive Committee and Secretariat also need to be reorganised. The world is too big, too full of problems, to permit of its being dealt with from one centre. With the growth of the work technical problems arise in our movement as in others. We need therefore special heads of departments, technical experts, in our general Secretariat. This is especially true of the Research Department, which tends more and more to become an independent branch of the work.

A division of work is also necessitated by differences of language and the differing mental outlooks of Europe and America, with the problems to which it gives rise ; there is also the question of combining the speedy action which may at times be necessary with the principle of a democratic sharing of responsibility by all the groups on whose support the Movement depends. The question of the importance and extent of technical research work within a church movement is also the subject of discussion. The work of reorganisation must also aim at giving women a larger share in the Movement than has hitherto been the case.

The Conference showed the keenest interest in the Research Department of the Institute. The Institute presented the first numbers of a series entitled " Studies and Documents ", and Dr. Hans Schönfeld showed, in an introductory report, how the problem of unemployment, together with other subjects of research, is approached by the Institute from the point of view of wide and far-reaching international cooperation.

A. K.

A. Commissions of the Continuation Committee.

1. The *Press Commission* suggests that a special fund should be created to promote contacts between the editors of the more important periodicals and the Christian organs, and that a new conference of Christian editors should be organised.

The news service and article service were further developed. An œcumenical letter is sent out every month, giving news of the individual churches. An œcumenical library of periodicals and books has been created. The international press service is to be conducted from four centres — Berlin, London, New York and the Orthodox countries. Regional conferences will serve to promote cooperation between the press of neighbouring lands. The question of the use of wireless is at present being considered.

2. The *Commission of Professors of Theology* is endeavouring to bring about greater cooperation between the theological work of the various countries and churches. This is being done by the exchange of professors and by regional conferences. In Paris a conference of Russian-Orthodox and Protestant theologians took place under the leadership of Professor Wilfred Monod, at which the question of the pastoral office in the Church was considered. The chief problems before us at the moment are — cooperation between the Churches of the East and the West, on the one hand, and co-operationbe tween the Anglican Church and the Protestant Churches of the Continent, on the other. A conference held at Novi Sad in August between theologians of the Eastern and Western Churches helped to promote the first of these aims, and the conference of British and German theologians at Selwin College marked a step towards the second. The subject of this conference was the *Church*. The Anglican idea, partly determined by the influence of Erasmus, here came into conflict with the Lutheran conception. The result was however to give each side a better knowledge of the other. An outcome of this conference is to be the joint Christ-book, which will appear in English and German in 1930. The Eastern and Western Church conference took place in August in Novi Sad, with Bishop Irenäus and Professor Dibelius as Chairmen. The subject was the Epistle to the Philippians. Exegetics here proved a valuable basis for œcumenical cooperation. The Commission is preparing a new statement of the leading principles of the Stockholm Conference, devotion and service being regarded as essentially one. It is also preparing a call to prayer.

3. *The Youth Commission* is carefully maintaining coordination between the International organisations working for youth, and considers the appointment of a Secretary for the Youth Commission to be desirable.

The report on the Church and Youth has been widely distributed. A Youth Conference for the Orthodox Churches of the East is being arranged, and much interest is shown in this question in Orthodox circles. The conference will be held under the joint leadership of the Youth Commission and the World Alliance for the Promotion of Friendship through the Churches. Its main object is to bring together the leaders occupied in church work amongst youth, and in enlisting youth for work for the Churches and for the Stockholm Movement. The conference is expected to take place in October 1930, and will be the first of a series of conferences to be held in various parts of the world, in which the problem of the relations between youth and the church will be the object of special study.

The Commission is also studying, on the basis of a memorandum prepared by Professor Kohnstamm, the question of the relation between religion and science. A study-conference has suggested the creation of an advisory group for all questions connected with this subject. An international Youth Conference for the study of social questions is planned for 1930. Special attention is to be devoted to economic relations, the mutual interdependence of the peoples, and methods employed by the churches for the social education of youth.

National conferences are to be held side by side with these international gatherings.

Miss Lucy Gardner has retired from the Commission on grounds of health.

4. *The Co-ordination Commission* has been enlarged by the inclusion of the Bishop of Lichfield, Prof. Zankoff, the Rev. Mr. Sandegren, and the Rev. Mr. Kirk. This Commission is entrusted with the reorganisation of cooperation amongst the various groups of the Stockholm Movement, and also with other movements. Friendly contact is maintained with "Faith and Order", and arrangements are to be made for the annual conferences of the two movements to be held close together. The Commission has created a special committee for closer cooperation with the Orthodox Churches. This Committee consists of the Bishop of Lichfield, Prof. Deissmann, the Rev. A. J. Brown, Pastor Neander and Prof. Adolf Keller. The committee is also considering the possibility of finding a joint method of raising the financial means necessary for certain objects. The Commission is particularly interested in the problem of promoting satisfactory co-operation in the domain of research work between the Institute, the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., the Social Research Bureau of the International Missionary Council, the European Central Bureau, the World's Student Christian Federation and the International Home Missions' Association.

5. *The Commission of the Institute.* The Commission of the Institute has considered the various conceptions of the function of the Institute, and has come to the conclusion that it should not confine itself merely to technical research, but should also devote full attention to the building up of social ethics and to educational work as well as to an information service. As the social research work increases, the development of an independent research department will be necessary. The Commission is therefore chiefly occupying itself with the development of the existing work, with a view ot its future reorganisation. The Commission also promotes œcumenical research work and recommends continuous cooperation between the general secretaries and sectional leaders of the various international organisations in Geneva engaged in social research. It was decided to continue preparations for the foundation of a co-operative credit association by the European Central Bureau. The Swiss Bankers' Committee has already collected a sum of 50,000 Sw. frs. for this purpose. The Commission is collecting material as to what is already being done in the way of cooperation between theology, political economy, medecine and pedagogy.

The Commission recommends the Churches to make known the publications of the Institute, particularly the series "Studies and Documents".

The problem of the continuation of the technical periodical "Stockholm" in three languages has continued to occupy the attention of the Commission. The publication is in any case already guaranteed for a period of three years. On account of language differences it might perhaps seem better, from one point of view, to publish 3 editions in different languages in place of one magazine in 3 languages ; or to arrange for publication in conjunction with already existing periodicals. On the other hand, the movement needs an organ of its own, especially on the Continent, where the international character of the magazine in its present form is of very great value. All those interested in the continuance of the magazine are asked to endeavour to make it more widely known.

The Commission of the Institute further considered the " Introductory Report on the Research Work of the Institute in regard to the *Problem of Unemployment*" which was presented by the German collaborator. The problem of permanent unemployment occupies the central place in this. On the basis of material supplied by the International Labour Office a survey is given of the extent and nature of unemployment in the chief industries of the world, and the trend of further development is set forth. The report then turns to the problem of unemployment in the coal industry, and traces, on the basis of the

investigations conducted by the International Labour Office and the League of Nations, the connection between permanent unemployment and the whole question of international economic relations and competition. An attempt is made to consider the problem of permanent unemployment from the Christian standpoint, with the help of a study made, and shortly to be published, by the *Christian Social Council* (London). This study deals with the proposals and measures hitherto adopted for the combatting of unemployment in the coal industry. The results of the investigation would seem to indicate that these proposals and measures do not affect the profoundest causes of permanent unemployment, and therefore do not attack the evil at the root. These considerations lead to a critical discussion of the peculiar function of capital in the modern economic and industrial system.

The Continuation Committee approved the decision of the Commission of the Institute in favour of the continuation and extension of the investigation into the coal industry and textile industry of the most important industrial countries, with a view to making possible the organisation of common action by the churches in the matter of permanent unemployment.

The Commission of the Institute further considered the report on *The Churches and Church Missions and the Welfare of Seamen,* which had been prepared by the Secretary of the Institute ; information concerning the contents of this Report was given in the last number of the Bulletin. The Continuation Committee approved the proposal of the Commission of the Institute to send copies of this Report to the members of the International Labour Conference which took place in the autumn of this year.

The Commission of the Institute further considered a Report on *Suggestions for a Study of the Effects of International Indebtedness on Conditions of Life in the European Countries and in the United States of America.* What is contemplated in the first place is a study of the actual condition of international indebtedness and its development during the pre-war period, with a view to preventing a false judgment of the whole situation, and to enabling the whole problem to be discussed without avoidable ill-feeling and bitterness. The question of the fall in the purchasing power of money would then have to be considered, with its various causes, and finally the possible or probable consequences of international indebtedness would have to be investigated, as seen for example in the continuous accentuation of industrial crises and conflicts, and in the extraordinary extent of unemployment and its permanent character in many countries. It was decided to ask for the help of distinguished experts in working out a plan for the carrying out of this study, and also to secure the cooperation of the big international organisations.

A further subject of extensive discussion was the *organisation of the first Experts' Conference*, which is to take place in the summer of 1930. It was decided to form social committees in the individual churches and Church Alliances, which should share the responsibility for the preparations, and from whose members the delegates to the Experts Conference would be chosen. This Experts' Conference will occupy itself with the practical problems presenting themselves in connection with the social work of the churches and religious organisations, and will also consider any of the productions of the research work of the Institute which may be presented to it. If possible, it will also lay the foundations for the constitution of a system of Christian sociology. This would imply a study of the principles expressed in the Stockholm Message in a purely ethical form, in their application to individual concrete problems of social and economic life, in order to arrive at fundamental conclusions concerning the influence which they must necessarily exercise upon definite industrial and social relationships.

6. *Committee on Church and Labour.* — Following on the reports of the different *rapporteurs* on the establishment of *relations with the various international organisations of employers and workers*, further measures for the strengthening and development of these relations were decided on, and the desire was expressed that the Institute should request the Churches to furnish all possible information concerning their relations to employers and workers, and should present a report on this question at a Labour Conference which is planned for the summer of 1930. The Committee further decided to make a preliminary study of the procedure of the various churches in relation to the holding of " Labour Sundays ", and to deal with this question at its next meeting on the basis of the information thus acquired.

On the basis of a report by Dr. Thélin on the " International Labour Conventions and the Churches ", it was decided to undertake a systematic study of the conventions which have been ratified. The attitude of the various countries to the conventions ratified, and the effects of these conventions in the countries concerned, will first be investigated. An attempt will be made, in cooperation with competent experts, to establish what obstacles the practical carrying out of the conventions meets with in the various countries, and what practical suggestions could be made for overcoming these difficulties. The question of the international regulation of conditions of labour in general will also be considered, especially in reference to the responsibility of Christians in the various countries in this matter.

In order to promote and bring about cooperation between the representatives of employers, workers and the Churches in the individual countries and also on an international basis, the Committee decided to

organise, for the summer of 1931, an *international "Labour Week"*. The programme of this Labour Week, and the detailed preparations to be made for it, will be discussed at length at a special conference to be held in the summer of 1930, in conjunction with the Experts' Conference which is planned for.

In order to make possible the practical carrying out of these plans and decisions, it was further decided to create, in the individual countries and churches, *national coordinating groups*, with the special object of supporting the work of the Committee and carrying out the necessary preparatory work.

B. Social Work and Movements Having a Religious Basis.

The European Central Bureau for Church Relief, which was founded at an international conference at Copenhagen in 1922, entered upon a new stage at the Basle Conference, August 23-24 of this year. The emergency relief which was its immediate task in the early post-war years, is, it is true, still indispensable to-day, but the Central Bureau has for some years been turning its attention to more constructive activities, amongst which are to be reckoned the creation of leaders in the fields of theology and social work and the development of the social work of the Churches, together with certain special tasks, such as the foundation of a *credit cooperative association*. This has become necessary owing to the fact that in the Eastern countries of Europe churches and organisations which wish to borrow money for the extension of their work have to pay a rate of interest of from 12 to 20 per cent. The Basle Conference approved of the preparatory work accomplished by a Swiss Bankers' Committee, and the creation of a credit cooperative association of this type may be looked for in the course of this winter.

The Central Bureau has also a special committee for the study of the religious movements of Eastern Europe, and has, for the last three years, interested itself in the Protestant movement in Galicia. The Basle Conference expressed its thanks to America for the help which it had given, and decided to continue the relief work for a further five years, but as the same time to continue the development of its constructive work and programme.

The Central Bureau likewise requested the Oecumenical Council for Practical Christianity to make representations to the League of Nations in favour of those suffering from the famine in China.

The importance of the European Central Bureau was also referred to at the Marburg Meeting in commemoration of the Conference

of 1529. The wish was expressed that the Central Bureau should be further developed in the interests of the protection and promotion of the Protestant cause, though this should not prevent the Bureau from giving all the help in its power to Orthodox students, as it has done hitherto.

World's Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations.

The Committee of the World's Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations held a meeting in August 1929, at Geneva. They decided to include in the agenda of the world conference to be held in 1931 the study of *industrial and social problems*, with a view to working out a practical policy in certain welldefined fields.

The Committee proposes to publish a statement drawing attention to the common aims and mutual sympathy of all movements for social progress. After formulating the general principles of the Alliance as regards industrial and social problems, this statement will enumerate the questions which will be taken up first for study and action in the national field, and possibly for international action. In some instances, it is proposed to collaborate with other organisations. The programme will be drawn up with due regard to the opinion and policy of the various national associations, which will be consulted by the Committee before anything is done.

Dr. Ayusawa, Chairman of the Intercultural Commission emphasized the responsibility of his group in dealing with the question of the relations between races and continents, and laid stress upon the positive conception of world unity and interdependence, to be furthered by the World's Committee of Y.M.C.A's. Dr. Datta, who is acting as secretary of the commission, has laid down plans of research on the cultural and spiritual implications of the political, social and economic conditions of the Far Eastern nations.

The question of *Rural work* has also been a subject for discussion. The Committee of the Young Men's Division, recognizing the importance and urgency of undertaking more active and energetic work amongst the masses of the country districts, proposes that a world conference of specialists on this subject should be held in the course of 1930, in the early autumn.

The aim of this conference would be to study the present situation of the work amongst the country population, methods in use and results obtained ; to make clear the great problems which concern rural youth ; and to draw up a programme of work which may serve as the basis of discussion at the 1931 Conference.

ENGLAND

The Christian Social Council.

The Council will be holding its first anniversary meeting from January 27th to 29th. Besides the business meetings there are to be Conferences on the Council's approach to Industry and to Housing, and a public meeting at which Dr. Garvie and Dr. Keller will speak.

The Council's "*Social Education Committee*" has issued a series of four tracts on Major Issues of the Day (1d.). These are : "International Peace" by Sir Willoughby Dickinson ; "The Lot of the Miners" by Henry Brooke ; "Unemployment" by Miss Ruth Kenyon; "Education" by Dr. Albert Mansbridge.

The Research Committee is repsonsible for a booklet on "The Miners Distress and the Coal Problem" prepared by Mr. Demant, the Director of Research, to be published immediately by the Student Christian Movement (1s. 6d.), with questions for the use of study groups.

The Conference held in Birmingham will next year (April 23rd to 26th 1930) be devoted to the subject of "The Ethics of Interest and Investment". Some preliminary papers on the historical aspect of this subject will be published immediately by the S.P.C.K. under the title : "Interest and Investment in the Christian Tradition". (6d.)

The Committee has also in hand a long memorandum on "Conscience in Industry" which has brought interesting comments from a few people in Industry and business. This will be the basis of a questionnaire which will be widely circulated to find out : how far people are working to Christian standards, how far, if they are not, is it due to neglect of these standards or to economic necessity. Relative to this subject the Committee hope to set up a Commission to collect all information available on experiments in Industry and business which are contributions to practical Christian Social ethics.

A Sub-committee is also working on "Christianity in Relation to War and Peace" to see (1) how far the Christian Conscience is agreed (2) to report what problems are still requiring investigation such as the sociological, economic and psychological causes of war, (3) to suggest methods and persons to undertake such further investigation.

These last two activities "Conscience in Industry" and "War and Peace" are parts of the work (begun by Copec) of a larger group responsible for investigating "The Functioning of the Christian Conscience and of the Christian Church in guiding Conscience in a non-Christian World". This group will in addition soon be including as a third subject : "Christianity and Politics".

The Industrial Christian Fellowship is regarded as the Church of England organisation for the promotion of the study of social and industrial questions, both from the national and international standpoint. It is represented on the Christian Social Council of England by sixteen members ; and its General Director, the Rev. P. T. R. Kirk, is one of the hon. Secretaries of the Council.

The I. C. F. is unique inasmuch as it employs a large number of Missioners, both clerical and lay, who are carrying on evangelistic work with due emphasis on the social aspect of the Gospel. The following short report, written by a lay Missioner of the Fellowship, describes one phase of the work, namely amongst the local unemployed of Bristol :

Bristol is supposed to have no main street and no main industry — it certainly has no main open-air meeting pitch. Yet our Sunday evening meeting sandwiched in between other meetings on the Welshback is again on the up grade.

The number of factories visited is almost negligible, not because of any lack of openings, but owing to shortage of man power. During the winter, however, this type of work will receive more attention.

The unemployed, linked as they are in an association with the trade unions and the churches, provide as far as meetings are concerned, the same type of audience as a dinner-hour gathering would. We (some thirty clergy and myself) visit four meetings of men and two of women. I am an executive member of the association and am entrusted with some of the responsibility of leadership.

These activities, together with organising outings (we have at a cost of nearly £400, collected in all sorts of ways, taken 3,000 children to the seaside, and are now arranging a treat for 600 juvenile unemployed, and a couple of outings for women), putting up a plea at the police court, going on deputations to the labour exchanges and Board of Guardians, appearing at Courts of Referees, finding tools and clothing for an occasional work-finder, visiting the sick, instructing inquirers (and they inquire about everything !) and participating in attempts to create a better informed public opinion — all this is really more, much more than one man's job. It demands both courage and faith. Please pray that I be given both.

Tailoring Trade. — At a meeting of the Executive Committee, recently held, the Rev. P. T. R. Kirk submitted the result of his inquiries to date into the conditions of the tailoring trade, and further exhibited a coat retailed in some districts at 65s. and others at 75s., together with the following particulars regarding cost and profit :

	£	s.	d.
Cost of material	1	4	9 ½
Cost of labour, divided between five people ...	0	4	3
Profit divided between three parties	1	15	11 ½
to	2	5	11 ½

He also referred to the insanitary conditions under which much of the work was produced, and submitted for consideration the following suggestions for remedy :

a) More inspectors and more adequate inspection.

b) Manufacturers (not sub-contractors) should be held responsible for the payment of Trade Board rates and the observance of Factory and Workshops Acts of Parliament.

c) All private dwelling houses used as workshops should be compulsorily registered by the appropriate local authority.

The Committee decided to take no immediate action ; but it was agreed that the investigations should be continued, and that further consultation should take place with the officials of the various tailoring trade unions and others.

Rise in Food Prices. — Considerable concern has been felt for some time past concerning the steep rises in food prices, which a few weeks ago were still 63 % above the 1914 level and apparently on the up-grade. There is no doubt that the high cost of essential foodstuffs, notably milk and bread, is serious particularly in poor areas. Teachers who work in the Elementary schools are only too well aware of the evil effects of improper or insufficient feeding on the health, and consequently on the education of the children in these schools. A questionnaire was sent out by the Industrial Christian Fellowship into all parts of the country, asking for facts and authentic information. In view, however, of the recent decision of the Government to set up a Consumers' Council, no further action is to be taken at the moment ; but a request has been made to local representatives to watch the situation, and to continue to report any local rises, other than seasonal, and also any cases of food adulteration.

Sunday Observance. — At the half-yearly meeting of the Council of the Industrial Christian Fellowship, to be held in The Upper House of Convocation, Church House, Westminster, on Tuesday evening, January 21st at 8 p.m. and on Wednesday morning, the 22nd at 11a.m., the subject under discussion will be Sunday Observance. A group has been formed to prepare a premiminary statement as a basis for discussion, with the following terms of reference :

a) To prepare a statement of our ideas for the ordinary Christian observance of Sunday, in view of the prevailing conditions in modern life.

b) To make practical suggestions to promote a more general observance, and to keep down Sunday trading, boxing, etc.

c) To indicate how far existing organisations to promote Sunday Observance are working efficiently.

Christ and Society. — A large Meeting is to be held in the Central Hall, Westminster on Tuesday evening, February 4th at 8 p.m. on the subject of "Christ and Society". The Bishop of Lichfield will preside ; and the speakers will be the Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, the Bishop of Whitby and the Very Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard, D. D., Dean of Canterbury.

Economics and Unemployment

by Rev. Herbert Crabtree.

Every reasonable proposal for dealing with unemployment, no matter how drastic and sweeping, must command thoughtful consideration. Thus far, however, the ground is sadly encumbered with conflicting theories as to the true basis of value in industry. The communist finds it in labour ; the orthodox economist in capital. They are certainly both wrong, inasmuch as they both divide an essentially indivisible relationship, and both tend to regard economic values as static and not vital. As in other vital sciences, economic values are always relative, never absolute, and are always fluctuating, according to the total influences bearing upon them in society from time to time. Among these influences are, firstly, natural conditions, which though constantly changing are in but small degree amenable to human control ; and secondly, human desires, customs, traditions, systems, and so forth, which nowadays *must* be rationally controlled if society is to endure.

Speaking broadly, the cause of unemployment is under-consumption of the goods that potentially we are able to produce, but actually are not producing, owing to insufficiency of economic demand ; i.e. demand expressed in terms of purchasing power. Human needs as such, however urgent, are in themselves unable to set in motion the wheels of industry. They are effective only in so far as they can be expressed in terms of economic demand, which means, of course, money, or purchasing power, including not only currency, but credit, in the form of cheques, bills, loans, etc. In theory, credit implies an obligation to pay one's debts in money if called upon to do so. Financial credit in itself, however, is a very unstable thing, as recent events on both sides of the Atlantic have plainly revealed. A nation's true wealth ultimately

depends not upon the sum of its money values (the nominal floating capital of our country to-day is certainly higher than it has ever been before in its history), but upon its capacity to produce and deliver commodities desired for human consumption. Upon this capacity the real credit of a nation finally rests, but, unfortunately for industry, this credit value does not become effective unless and until it is translated into terms of financial credit values. For instance, real credit attaches as much to the skill of a trained workman as to the productive capacity of a machine, but financial credit may be issued on the value of the latter, but never on the value of the former.

There is a fundamental disharmony here, which must be resolved if the problem of unemployment is to be solved. It arises directly from the illusion that capital values are fixed and static, and that, consequently, money possesses intrinsic value, whereas actually it is only of instrumental value, i.e., as a medium of exchange. It has thus come about that industry is generally organised on the basic but mistaken assumption that wealth is to be estimated in terms not of goods but of money.

The effect of thus putting secondary things first may be simply but tragically stated. If the primary aim of the producer is not so much to satisfy the community's need for goods but to secure the largest financial results possible, it follows that if more money can be made by the manufacture of less goods (e.g., by cornering the market, or securing a monopoly) then less goods will inevitably be made. Production then declines whilst prices rise ; the purchasing power of the masses becomes less effective, thus leading to reduced economic demand and consequently still less production ; the cost of living continues to rise in approximate ratio to the increase of unemployment, until at length despair and want lead to social degeneration and chaos.

Trade may be likened to a two-legged creature, one of the legs being production, and the other consumption. Neither leg can advance far beyond the other, and in view of the gravely restricted purchasing power of the consuming classes, by which are meant the masses of the people, their credit value as potential producers not being translatable into financial credit, inadequate stimulus is given to trade. This involves unemployment as a matter of course, which again leads to a further diminution of purchasing power among the masses, and so the most vicious of all economic circles is completed. This circle can only be broken by finding some means whereby the nation's real credit values may be readily transformed into financial values, and the primary aim of industry thus be made the satisfaction of the community's need for goods, rather than the mere securing of financial returns. Such returns, in a well balanced financial system, would be regarded not as ends, but

as means ; in other words, would be estimated as instrumental, not as intrinsic, values.

Industrial and economic problems are commonly supposed to arise from the relations of employers and employed. Actually, the most important arise from our failure to bring producers and would-be consumers into effective relations with one another. For this reason, much current discussion as to who should own the means of production misses the real issue, which is, how to bring together the man who needs goods and the man who has them to sell. This is a problem not primarily of ownership but of financial administration. Signs are not wanting that this view is engaging the serious attention of independent economists, and there are good grounds for hoping that ere long not only the experts but popular opinion also will be turning to this more fundamental aspect of the problem of unemployment, the most grievous, dangerous and, if uncontrolled, disastrous sore in the body-politic today.

(Reprinted, by permission, from Social Service Quarterly, Supplement to The Inquirer and Christian Life, Nov. 30, 1929.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Employer View of Labor Sunday Message

The Federal Council's Labor Sunday Message this year attracted wide attention. Influential trade union journals reprinted it in whole or in part, but made few editorial comments. Not so *Law and Labor*, organ of the League for Industrial Rights, a well known employers' organization, which published a lengthy commentary on the message. *Law and Labor* says, in part :

" The program it places before the churches is large and comprehensive. From a humanitarian standpoint it makes a strong appeal. If carried through with any degree of thoroughness it should undoubtedly result in great good and much profitable enlightenment, particularly to those churches located in the 87 cities of 100,000 population or over where the industrial strength of the country is located.

1. Every local church and church organisation is admonished to make itself a model of economic justice. As an employer of labor it is warned to examine its own house. The churches must not compromise their own teaching out of a desire for economy.

This first proposal is as arresting as it is adventurous. One wonders why it has not been made and insisted upon before. Is there a distinctly Christian principle of labor relations ? If so, can the Protestant churches of America apply it to their employment relations ? Just what should Christian principles of labor relations mean ? Does it mean the adoption of a union scale of pay for staff workers and other employees of the churches ? Does it mean the emulation of standards already achieved by company unions and the more progressive industrial units together with their pension schemes and other benefits for workers ? Or does it mean something which goes beyond these and looks to the equalization of all ministers' salaries, so that every ordained man of the Protestant denominations will receive equal pay for equal service rendered ?

Does the Protestant church know more about these matters ? Whether it does or not this challenge to put its economic relations in order is significant. The reaction to this challenge on the part of the churches will attest more than anything else the value they place on this Labor Day Message.

2. An industrial survey of each Protestant parish, preferably in cooperation with varied agencies, is advised. This suggestion stresses the importance of knowledge of the facts.

There are undoubtedly many Protestant churches who could engineer such a survey with a considerable degree of competence. One is compelled to question, however, whether the parish of the average Protestant church is the natural basis for such a survey. How many churches affiliated with the Federal Council in New York, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, St.-Louis and other industrial cities are so situated geographically that they could do effectively what this proposal asks them to do ?

Furthermore, however inviting the suggestion ' that studies be made of the local industrial situation in one or more of its aspects in order to secure a working knowledge of facts ', the range of questions suggested by the Message for ascertaining these facts will hardly afford a fair appraisal. Facts must be read in the light of the entire environment of which they are a part.

3. A study of the history of the Labor movement and interest in workers' education is recommended in the Message.

This suggestion is vague. But the explanation of it in the Message refers to acquaintance with trade unionists and the trade union movement.This is, in fact, but a sector of the labor movement. The movement of labor in the United States has been largely influenced by factors which the trade union movement has ignored or opposed. If churchmen are to understand the import of ' the struggle for better standards of life ' surely they will need to go far beyond the information furnished by a study of the trade union movement. They will need to know why organized labor has been steadily losing members since 1920. Why the greatest of our new industries have developed with little or no demand from the workers in these industries for the support of the organized labor forces. Why the organized labor forces are so torn by discussion and dissension at the present time and why many of the saner and more advanced leaders are advocating a complete reorganization of the American Federation of Labor and its policies. They will need to be well acquainted with the wide service and outstanding achievement recorded to the credit of the company unions and the industrial relation programs formulated to meet the needs of large and small industrial units. They will need to know of the results which have followed in the wake of the application of psychiatry to industrial problems and the wholly new technique which this approach has furnished for the proper placing and development of individual workers.

This Labor Day Message is excellent in its escape from abstractions and moralizations which do not advance the specific problems that industry faces. In drawing attention to the concreteness of the industrial problem, the fact that life is a condition and not a theory, the Commission on the Church and Social Service is moving in the right direction. Yet in this message, wisely advising the collection of data and the examination of factual conditions, there is absent any hint that the church comprehends the actual forces at work which are moulding industry and constantly reorganizing the economic interest and efforts of men. These forces are not static. They will escape mere statistical survey. The message sidesteps the fundamental problem of the wise direction of industry. – (*Information Service,* Oct. 26).

* * *

Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company of Chicago, announced on October 30 that he was ready to use his personal

fortune to protect the employees of the company from losses on their investments due to the great slump in the stock market.

(Information Service, Nov. 23, 1929.*)*

FRANCE

General Assembly of French Protestants at Marseilles.

This Assembly, which only meets every five years, held its last meeting at Marseilles from the 22nd to the 29th of October, 1929. Representatives of all the unions of Churches and of all the important Protestant organisations were present, and this meeting marked a first step towards a concentration of the power of the French Protestant organisations. The Assembly sent the following message to the Protestants in France " We have gained the stirring conviction that in the way which has been shown to us by the Spirit of God Himself new perspectives of a close and fruitful collaboration and co-operation are opening out before our Churches. "

A proposal made by M. Gounelle with regard to the relations to be established between the Protestant Federation and " Life and Work " was referred to the Council after being favourably considered. The sense of this proposal was that the Federation should be represented at Geneva, as are most of the other Protestant Federations, by a competent delegate who should be nominated and supported financially by the Federation itself.

The subject of one of the evening meetings was the great international conferences of Stockholm, Lausanne and Jerusalem, which was from all accounts an unforgettable experience. This evening meeting produced a very profound impression. Above the distress of the after-war period and above the rivalry of the Churches the audience had a vision of the Protestant forces united in work, faith and missionary enterprise and moving forward to the accomplishment of their common task.

Intervention by Christian Personalities in a Strike in the Textile Industry.

A strike, which took place in the textile industry in the North of France at Halluin on the Belgian frontier and which lasted for seven months from September 1928 to April 1929, affected 12,000 families. This strike caused particularly severe suffering on account of the exceptionally rigorous winter and of the uncompromising attitude of the employers, so that it has been described as one of the most disastrous strikes which have taken place during the last few years.

The strike became general in September. In January there were negotiations between the employers' association and certain unions

as a result of which the work ought to have been resumed on the 28th of January.

But three days beforehand the strikers were told by the employers of a new regulation making the conditions under which work was to be resumed more stringent : that is to say making serious reductions in the wages offered and with resolutions restricting the trade union law. This regulation had been kept secret until the last moment.

Naturally this trick caused consternation among the strikers who refused to resume work. The strike, whatever its origin, was now justified.

It was at this moment that the energetic intervention of several Christian personalities occurred on the initiative of Pastor Henri Nick of Fives-Lille, who is well known for his limitless devotion to the workers of the North, to whom he has dedicated his life.

The following letter was sent to all the trade unions and to all the employers effected by the conflict :

" Gentlemen,

If we take the liberty of writing to you with regard to the strike at Halluin it is only because we are moved by feelings of humanity and solidarity in the presence of the cruel sufferings which the prolongation of the present struggle is causing. This fratricidal struggle has already lasted too long. We call upon the name of Christ for Whom all men are brothers, we suffer with the women and children and we regret to have to state that no way out has yet appeared.

It seems to us that the only solution lies in meetings or conversations between the parties, by which a rapprochment of the points of view could perhaps be made by mutual concessions.

For example : Ought not the regulation to be revoked ? Could not the workmen dismissed be taken back with a view to reconciliation ? With regard to salaries as the cost of living has increased and as other corporations (mining, metal) have seen theirs augmented since 1926 would not a compromise be desirable ? In any case this claim as well merits being discussed.

But we do not desire here either to impose or even to propose our views. The only object of what has been said above is to show the necessity for a meeting. For the moment we are satisfied with making the following gesture :

We beg the two parties to the conflict in the name of our Christian ideal and of the human brotherhood to accept the principle of a meeting, which naturally would not be binding, but which might lead them out of the present deadlock.

We should therefore be obliged to you if you would let us know under what conditions, in what manner and in the presence of or under the chairmanship of what personalities you would accept to meet the delegates of the employers' association.

The procedure of the law of the 27th of December, 1892, could be applied. But if you prefer it we very willingly offer to take all the necessary steps with the government officials, magistrates, university circles and various clergymen of whom you would like to have the co-operation. We are besides ready to efface ourselves as soon as the parties have met and are on the way to reaching an understanding, or when better qualified persons have taken the matter in hand.

We are writing at the same time and in the same spirit of impartiality and of desire for conciliation to the various employers and to the employers' associations

of Halluin. We ask you very earnestly to let us have a reply before Thursday evening, for there is no time to be lost as innocent children are suffering.

We hope that through the mediation of our humble selves you will take into consideration the humane and christian inspiration which has animated us, and that you will understand how much it is to the mutual interest of both parties to see an end put as soon as possible to this grievous struggle.

(Signed) Henri Nick, *Minister.*

J.B. Benoit, *Graduate in Philosophy, disabled ex-serviceman.*

C. Vallee, *Professor.*

While the workers' unions replied immediately accepting this attempt at conciliation the employers did not reply, after having already rejected all the demands for arbitration or discussion made by the unions, and all the official and unofficial attempts at mediation in order to bring about a friendly solution. As the attempt at mediation of this little group of Protestants had thus failed owing to the uncomprimising attitude of the manufacturers an *Appeal to public opinion* was sent to all the local newspapers and posted at Halluin, Lille and Roubaix.

This appeal related the causes of the strike, the inadmissible claims of the new regulation and the attitude of some of the employers, which was censured by the Minister of Labour and by some of the manufacturers themselves, and ended thus :

" The sufferings of all the strikers, of women and of innocent children, who have been cruelly effected by the prolongation of the strike, make it necessary that a solution, based on an equitable increase in wages, on the respect of the dignity of every human being and on the recognition of the trade union law by both sides and facilitated by reciprocal concessions, should be found immediately.

For want of powerful intervention it is the duty of mere citizens to intervene.

We appeal to the population, without distinction of opinion, in favour of the families who are victims of the strike... "

This poster had no effect on the employers, who continued to maintain an attitude of disdainful silence, but it stirred up a great outburst of solidarity in favour of the strikers, particularly in Catholic circles, which started a subscription for the strikers who were members of the Christian unions.

The subscription list was headed by the Bishop of Lille, who, it must be noted in passing, was on the best of terms with Pastor Nick, and old comrade of the front. They had the greatest respect for each other, and the Bishop equally desired that a solution of the struggle should be found and an end thus put to acute distress. It is besides thanks to him that at the end of the strike the Catholic unions — to the exclusion of the others — were at last received by the owners and obtained vague promises. Nevertheless the owners accused the clergy, by giving this aid, of taking part in the struggle, from which there arose

a correspondence of quite a sharp tone between the Bishop and the Consortium, and the threat made to the Bishop to suspend all the grants by which the Catholic University of Lille is supported.

(*Christianisme Social*, August issue; cf. also *Informations Sociales*, of October, of the I.L.O.).

GERMANY.

The Churches and the Combatting of the Housing Shortage in Germany.

According to the latest estimates, based on careful investigation, there are in the German Reich about a million families which have no independent home. This short statistical statement sums up a state of wide-spread distress and unspeakable suffering amongst millions of human beings, the extent of which may be gleaned from a couple of examples. In Berlin, for example, 47,889 families occupied a single room each, while 336,279 had only two rooms. The conditions in such dwellings are pictured in the following example. A family in North Berlin : the dwelling consists of a living-room and kitchen, and is occupied by the parents and 5 children, ages 8-16 ; the father is tuberculous ; the sleeping accomodation consists of two beds, a *chaise longue* and a sofa. A family in South Berlin ; the dwelling consists of living room and kitchen, and is occupied by the parents and 6 children, ages 13, 10, 9, 6, 4, and 3 ; there are three beds. These conditions are to be found not only in Berlin, but similar examples could be cited of almost every town of any size. In Dresden a family of 9 persons occupies two rooms ; in a bedroom 8 ½ yards square by 9 ft high 4 persons sleep ; in the other room 5 persons sleep, 2 on a mattrass, the others on the floor. In a mining district in the country a miner's family, consisting of 5 persons (amongst them three children, ages 20,16 and 3) are living in one room 19 yards square, with 3 beds.

There are hundreds and thousands of families in town and country alike which have only one room at their disposal, in which they have to cook, wash, work and sleep, where children are born and brought up, and where human beings fall ill and die.

The churches in Germany have repeatedly concerned themselves with this appalling situation, and have endeavoured to draw the attention of the public and of the government to it by their utterances. But again and again they have been forced to recognise that a great part of this work remained without result, and that even a large amount of the work done in the institutions and homes of the Home Mission was of only doubtful benefit, so long as the housing shortage remained at its present pitch, forcing thousands of invalids and persons in need of special care to return to the same terrible conditions. The whole situation therefore called urgently for measures for the *practical com-*

batting of the housing shortage. Really efficaceous help however was only possible through the erection of new dwellings and the promotion of building schemes. The leading Church circles therefore resolved to create, for their part, the necessary conditions for the raising of the capital needed for such schemes, and where possible, to make their own capital available for this purpose. In this way the Evangelical Supreme Church Council of the Old Prussian Church obtained from the supreme Prussian authorities the right, for the Protestant churches and associations, to distribute the homesteads provided by the General Homesteads' Act. Thus it became possible for it to cooperate in the campaign against the housing shortage on a very large scale, and in virtue of this arrangement the churches were able, whilst drawing from public sources, at the same time to make their own capital and their own land available for building purposes.

As a central office for these efforts the " German Protestant Homesteads Association " was founded in 1926, with a building fund guaranteed exclusively by the central associations of the Protestant welfare organisations, above all the Central Committee for Home Missions of the German Protestant Church. Depositors were organised in groups of a hundred, a certain number of whom received each year the necessary money for building. The work of the Homesteads Association is chiefly concerned with the poorer circles of the population ; this is apparent from the fact that a monthly deposit of from 12-15 Marks (shillings) is about the average, and corresponds to a loan of about £250. Further a special department concerns itself with the promotion of agricultural settlement, with the object of enabling the younger children of farmers and agricultural labourers to remain in the country districts. In order to obtain a small-holding a monthly deposit of from 5-7.50 Marks is required (5 /- to 7 /6d.).

This method has made it possible for very wide circles to participate in the scheme, and for extensive help to be given. This is shown by the development which has taken place, and by the rapid increase in the number of depositors :

April 1927	278	depositors
October 1927	320	"
April 1928	626	"
October 1928	1906	"
April 1929	2375	"
October 1929	4002	"

The loan-contracts with depositors amounted to the followingsums:

July 1928 : 7,5 Millions of Marks (£300,000)
June 1929 : 15,3 Millions of Marks (£612,000)
October 1929 : 22,5 Millions of Marks (£900,000)

The work has also received considerable attention from the public at large, and has been recognised by the public savings-banks.

In close cooperation with the German Protestant Homesteads Association is the Building Society of the German People's Protestant Alliance, which seeks to provide poorer families and persons with suitable dwellings at the lowest possible prices. It also offers depositors technical and financial help in the carrying out of building projects. It had at first many difficulties to overcome ; the local authorities refused to grant it mortgages on house property at reduced rates of interest ; but now, thanks to its excellent work, it can reckon on being given prior claim in the granting of such mortgages. During the 1929 building season it carried out building operations to a value of 15 Millions of Marks (£600,000).

Finally, in August 1929 the German Homesteads and Sites Banking Association was founded, with the object of providing an organ for procuring the necessary funds to be lent on mortgage. This was also founded by a number of Protestant organisations, amongst which may be specially mentioned the Central Committee for Home Missions of the German Protestant Churches. Its object is chiefly to promote the building projects of the poorer classes and help them by providing the necessary building capital, which financiers of all kinds refuse to lend them, small mortgages being too much trouble and effort from their point of view. The Bank further represents the less well-to-do in their dealings with the representatives of the central and local government authorities in regard to the acquisition of the public funds which are available for the promotion of building schemes. It also helps in the acquisition of building materials and furniture, and its services may be called upon for the carrying out of special measures with a view to providing homes for large families. During the past year 4 million Marks (£160,000) were lent out on mortgage, and in addition a building fund of 5 Million Marks (£200,000) was raised for mortgages and loans.

Thus building funds, building association, architects and Banking Association work together in the closest cooperation, and all the essential parts of the work, from the conclusion of the loan-contract to the furnishing of the finished building, are carried through from one common centre.

NOTE. — In the next issue of the Bulletin we hope to be able to publish surveys on the Housing Problem and the Churches from two or three other countries, including England and Holland, and possibly France.

AFRICA

The Campaign against Alcoholism amongst the Natives.

The " German Foundation for Combatting the African trade in Brandy " (founded in 1910) which is continuing its work under the pre-

sent altered conditions, has published, in a booklet entitled " The Combatting of Alcoholism in Africa " (Berlin-Dahlem, Zietenstrasse 24) a report of the Conference of the Federation held in the Ministry of Labour in Berlin, March 1928, as also of the meeting of the International Federation for the Protection of Native Races against Alcoholism held at Antwerp, August 1928. National Committees are to be set up in the various countries, with the object of studying the problem and influencing public opinion and the governments to adopt an energetic attitude in the campaign against alcoholism amongst the Native races.

THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS WITHIN ROMAN CATHOLICISM.

The annual conference of the German Catholic University Association was held in Munich from November 1 to 3. The subject dealt with was "*Religion and Law*". Natural Law was shown to be the basis on which the relationship of the Christian to state, law and society can be founded. Law in its positive form is, according to this doctrine, to be judged and regulated from the point of view of original Natural Law, as ordained by God in the order of creation. The General Secretary was present at this conference.

* * *

The Catholic University Association of Germany held in November its big conference on "Law and Religion". The Association has created study groups, one for medecine, one for pedagogy, one for law, and one for sociology, in which the questions of modern civilised life are discussed in the light of religion. As a general basis for the discussions in the local circles of the sociological group, guiding lines have been drawn up, and have been reprinted in Volume 1, 1929, of the periodical of the Association, "Catholic Thought" (pp. 90 et seq.). We give here some of the points of view there laid down which appear to us to have special importance :

"1. It is incumbent on Catholic University men to restore the original force of the word "Academy" and make it a living thing. In order to do this, they should arrange "meetings" especially with representatives of the workers, who should thus be given an opportunity of declaring their views in regard to the problems of civilised life. 2. These discussions must be based on a free and complete recognition of the social equality of both social classes represented. 3. In order that the "meeting" may be of value, it is necessary that both sides should abstain from an "attitude of attack" that is, from an attitude which seeks to find the cause of evil conditions in private or public life solely or mainly in the fault of the opposing party, thus refusing that self-examination which is absolutely essential. Without the strictest self-discipline, which is absolutely incumbent on Catholics of all classes and positions, discussions fail to arrive at any result, but rather, under certain circumstances, make the existing gulf wider and deeper. 4. It must be the general aim of these joint considerations to defend

the true possessions of civilisation against the devastating effects of the mechanisation of industrial life, which is ever becoming more general and more extensive, and threatens to invade all vocations. This must be done primarily by making the advantages of civilisation available in an increasing degree to those social classes which have hitherto enjoyed them but little or not at all. The more vocational life becomes sub-divided, the more attention and care must be devoted to the re-awaking and formation of a vocational ethic based on the sense of the community and service to it. 5. In view of the importance of economic relationships for modern social life, the efforts of all must be directed to overcoming the spirit of capitalism. This demands in the first place and above all a new attitude of mind in the sense of a turning away from materialism. But capitalism must also be overcome by removing the interests of capital from their central position in economic life and gradually substituting for them the interests of labour, that is, the interests of all true workers. All social classes are interested in this development, since the present central position of capital results in an unbearable oppression not only on production and the division of profit, but also on consumption. The resulting pressure leads in many domains to services of a definitely immoral character. All endeavours of organised class representation which aim at overcoming this spiritual and material bondage should therefore receive decisive support, whether they be organisations of producers or of those in a middle position between the two opposing classes. Catholic representatives in such organisations, where such have no definitely Catholic character, must consider it as a sacred duty to lead the organisations to a point of view and to a form of practical activity in harmony with the Christian conception of the function of industry, that of providing the material basis of civilised life. On the social side they must do their utmost to prevent the organisations from sinking into an un-Christian class-warfare... The employer is acting not only in the general interest, but also in his own, when he takes the part of "labour" amongst his fellow-employers. The best way to the attainment of this end is to give a voice to the workers in all cases where the conduct of the organisation can justify this step. A general rule for the adoption of such a policy in regard to the fixing of prices and wages should be, that the standard of living of all classes should rise in at least equal proportion to the productivity of industry and labour.... The behaviour of the employer towards his workers must be based on a human sympathy fully conscious of the heavy responsibility which the modern employer has to bear. Catholic workers must recognise in principle the necessity of the employer class, provided that this does not become equivalent to mere ownership, but rather implies responsibility for the development and shaping of the industrial process. The authority of the employer as the director of industry must be respected, and must be emphatically maintained against attempts to undermine it. It is incumbent on Catholic employers and workers alike to combat everything that endangers morality, whether in production, in the organisation of labour, or in the fixing of prices of products. Frequent meetings of representatives of both parties are absolutely necessary, in order to produce an atmosphere of mutual trust.... No form of theft is more harmful, from a social and industrial point of view, than that committed against human labour. But such theft results not only from a too intensive exploitation of the forces of labour in a physical sense, but to at least an equal degree from an unpsychological treatment of the workers, rendered doubly sensitive by the mechanical form of activity imposed on them. A true social outlook and attitude has its deepest source in religion. University studies should take account of this by a development in the direction of social training.

The following remarks are made with regard to the attitude of the *priest*. This attitude must exemplify the love and fellowship which lies

at the heart of religion. The path which the priest has to follow is pointed out to him by the duties of his pastoral office themselves. The true cure of souls will never be contented with outer forms, but will always lay supreme stress on ministering to the life of the spirit, and will see in sacrifice for spiritual well-being its true task. The purer this missionary love, the closer will be the approach of religion to the various social classes, and the greater its power to promote true fellowship. A sincere and honest pastoral love will best protect the priest from party spirit and make his responsible office the recipient of universal confidence.

* * *

The *International Association for Social Study* held is tenth conference in the Archbishop's Palace at Mecheln on September 24 and 25, 1929. After considerable discussion the conference adopted the following resolution on the subject of *Forced Labour in the Colonies:*

1. Forced labour, if not absolutely contrary to natural right, is at any rate less consistent with human dignity than free labour. Experience has shown that it is a source of undeniable and serious abuses. It would therefore seem to be only tolerable as a provisional institution, where it is imperatively demanded by public welfare and the aims of civilisation. Its gradual abolition should be aimed at.

2. With the exception of cases of public necessity, those persons should not be subjected to forced labour who fulfil of their own accord and without outside compulsion, their moral obligation to perform useful work. All requisitions of this kind must take into account the capacity for work of the available labour supply and must in all cases require approval by the higher administrative authorities, and be subject to the supervision and responsibility of the home government.

3. The Association likewise regards it as necessary that the execution of the work should be accompanied by all protective measures and provisions which may be needful for securing just and humane conditions of work. It finds itself called upon to emphasis this point by the Encyclical " Rerum Novarum ".

4. The Association protests against the forcible and long-continued requisition of labour, especially at a considerable distance from home. It demands that the recruiting of labour, the length of time of its requisition, the hygienic and moral conditions, together with the places of employment and the housing, of labour, should be subject to regulation, and that a just wage together with compensation for accident and illness arising out of the work should be ensured.

5. It considers as indispensable a simple and speedy procedure which will enable the employees to bring any complaints with regard to conditions of work before the competent authorities.

6. Finally, it desires that the suggestions contained in the questionnaire issued by the International Labour Office should be taken into serious consideration by the governments.

7. The present resolution is being communicated to the International Labour Office.

(*Der Deutsche Weg,* Catholic Weekly, 14. XI. 29).

C. Activities of secular international organisations.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The Assembly of the League of Nations, at its tenth annual session last September, made important progress in the humanitarian and social sphere.

Opium.

The fight against the *traffic in opium* occasioned with regard to the report of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium, a discussion which may be considered as one of the most important, if not the most important, discussions which have ever taken place. The Yugoslavian delegate said, in his report to the Assembly, that this discussion " showed a deep sense of the gravity of the position and a general determination to put an end to the illicit traffic as soon as possible ". For the first time in the history of the League of Nations the principle of the limitation of the manufacture of narcotics was adopted. This limitation would be assured by an International Conference, which would determine the total amount of narcotics required to meet the legitimate medical and scientific needs of the whole world as well as the quotas which would be allocated among the various manufacturing countries.

The Assembly besides insisted on the vital necessity of a universal ratification and a strict application of the Opium Convention which had been concluded at Geneva in 1925. Only twenty-six of the fifty-four Members of the League of Nations had, at the present time, ratified the Convention.

The idea of the limitation of manufacture made great progress during the session.

The possibility of an agreement between the manufacturing countries as to the desirability of the limitation of manufacture arose from the discussion which occurred on this subject. The Assembly finally adopted a resolution by which it considers " that from now on the principle of the limitation by international agreement of the manufacture of drugs has been accepted... "

The Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium submitted a report to the Council, which will decide on the convening of a conference of the Governments of manufacturing countries as well as of the principal consuming countries.

Traffic in Women and Children.

The Traffic in Women and Children Committee submitted to the Assembly a report on its activity during the last year and on the work

of its eighth session which took place last April. The Committee investigated the conditions under which the Special Body of Experts could continue and extend its enquiry into the international traffic. It also considered that this enquiry should be pursued in countries not previously visited, especially in the East.

The Assembly endorsed this view and also judged that the composition of the Special Body of Experts should be adapted to the altered circumstances and consequently comprise persons, including women, acquainted with the habits and conditions of life in the East.

The Committee continued the investigation of the laws and regulation on prostitution in countries where the licensed house system has been abolished, as well as the legislation dealing with the souteneur. The Assembly noted that public opinion was more and more in favour of the abolition of the licensed house system, and that the general experience of the various countries pointed to the advisability of this measure. As regards legislation dealing with the souteneur the Assembly recommended that a Sub-Committee should be set up to study the question.

Child Welfare.

During the last year the activity of the *Child Welfare Committee* has been marked above all by the elaboration of two draft internatioal conventions, which are intended to meet certain difficulties often referred to by associations and groups engaged in child welfare work.

The first convention deals with the problem of assistance to foreign minors and the second with the return of children and young people to their homes. The Assembly vigorously recommended that the Governments should conclude agreements on this basis.

The Committee also considered the questions relating to the *age of marriage and consentment.* The age of marriage has been or is being raised by the laws of certain countries.

On the subject of the *auxiliary services of juvenile courts* the Committee, which also dealt with this question, prepared a Questionnaire which the Council decided to send to all Governments.

The Assembly emphasized the necessity for close co-operation between the Child Welfare Committee and the International Educational Cinematographic Institute in Rome. It directed the attention of the Rome Institute to study means for promoting and encouraging the production, exchange and representation of recreational films for children, which would amuse them whilst contributing to their intellectual and moral progress.

Lastly the Assembly noted that the Child Welfare Committee had been careful not to spread its inquiries over too large a number of problems.

Economic questions played an important part in the discussions of the Tenth Assembly.

With regard to the coal question it invited the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to convene at an early date a technical conference of government representatives, employers and workers of the principal European coal-producing countries.

The task of this preparatory Conference will be to indicate the questions concerning the hours of work, the wages and the labour conditions in the coal mines which it would be most desirable to include in the agenda of the 1930 International Labour Conference, with a view to an international agreement.

We spoke in Bulletin No. 7 of two consultative conferences of experts in the coal industry to which the Economic Committee of the League of Nations proceeded. The first (owners' experts) was in January 1929, and the second (workers' experts) in February and March 1929.

The Economic Committee assembled from September 30th to October 3rd, 1929, a mixed group of experts reflecting the opinion of the producers' and workers' organisations in producing and consuming countries. The object of this meeting was to examine the changes which had taken place in the international coal situation since the earlier consultations, and to consider the conclusions to which the experts had come.

The question of wages and of labour conditions in the mines gave place to a mere exchange of views, for it is the International Labour Organisation which is entrusted with this economic aspect of the problem.

* * *

The third session of the *Permanent Central Opium Board*, appointed under the Geneva Convention of 1925 to supervise the opium traffic, was held at Geneva from October 2nd to October 11th with Mr. Lyall (British) in the chair.

The Board considered and approved drafts of the statistical forms to be furnished to Governments. These forms cover the annual estimates of the Governments of their needs of narcotics for medical and scientific purposes, the annual statistics of the production, the manufacture, the quantities purchased for Government purpose and for other consumption, as well as annual statements of the stocks and of the seizures of opium and other drugs.

The Board also considered replies from twenty-eight Governments

with regard to exports and imports of opium and other drugs during the first six months of this year.

The Chairman emphasized that the success of the Board would depend upon the aid which Governments of all countries, Parties or non-Parties to the Convention of 1925, would be prepared to lend it in furnishing every three months statistics which were as exact as possible, as well as the annual statistics required under the Convention.

The next session will be held in January 1930.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

A session of the *Governing Body* of the International Labour Office was held in Geneva from the 4th to the 8th of October, 1929.

According to the resolution adopted by the Assembly of the League of Nations the Governing Body decided to include in the Agenda of the International Labour Conference (June 1930) questions relating to the working conditions in coal mines, and to convene a preparatory technical conference at Geneva for the 6th of January 1930. The countries invited to this preparatory conference are those which sent experts to the coal sub-committee of the Economic Commission of the League of Nations, that is to say Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, Great Britain, Netherlands, Poland and Czechoslovakia. Each country is asked to send to the conference of January 6th, three delegates representing respectively the government, the employers and the workers.

An Enquiry into Wages.

The Governing Body examined also the conditions under which the Office could carry out an enquiry into the purchasing power of wages in a certain number of towns. Mr. Filene, the well-known American manufacturer, has offered the Office $25,000 to cover the cost of this enquiry. The object of the enquiry is to ascertain the standard of living made possible in Detroit by a wage of $6 a day, and then to ascertain what wages should be paid to secure an equivalent standard of living in the European towns under consideration. The function of the Office will be to supply exact figures, established by strictly scientific methods. It will then be open to anyone to draw conclusions from these figures.

The 13th International Labour Conference
(International Maritime Conference.)

The 13th International Labour Conference was opened on October 10. It was devoted exclusively to questions of merchant shipping and the welfare of seamen. It is the third conference of this type which has been held (2nd International Labour Conference, Genua, 1920 ; 9th International Labour Conference, Geneva, 1926). The

Conference was opened by the Chairman of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, Mr. Arthur Fontaine. The Spanish Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Mr. Aunos, was unanimously elected as President of the Conference.

31 states were represented at the Conference, i.e. all the nations engaged in sea traffic which are members of the League of Nations, with the exception of Norway, which was prevented by special circumstances from taking part. There were altogether 102 delegates and 153 technical experts (55 government delegates and 64 advisers, 23 employers' delegates and 38 advisers, 24 workers' delegates and 51 advisers).

The 4 following questions were on the agenda of the Conference :

1. The regulation of hours of work on board ship.
2. Protection of seamen in case of sickness and accident.
3. Promotion of the welfare of seamen when in port.
4. Minimum requirement of professional capacity for officers of the merchant marine.

Printed reports prepared by the Labour Office on all four questions were at the disposal of the Conference.

The Conference unanimously adopted the Report of the Committee for the Promotion of the Welfare of Seamen, and likewise resolved unanimously to place the question of the welfare of seamen on the agenda of the next Conference. The conclusions contained in the Report adopted are to serve as the basis for a statement to be worked out by the International Labour Office and submitted to the states members for an expression of opinion. Mr. Salvesen, Vice-President of the Norwegian shipping Federation, took an active part in the work of the Commission in an advisory capacity. The text of the conclusions is given below.

The Conference likewise adopted the Report of the Commission on the Question of the Minimum Professional Capacity of Officers and resolved to place this question on the agenda of the next Conference. The Conference was of opinion that the question of the sickness insurance of seamen is fitted to form the subject of a draft convention, and commissioned the International Labour Office to interrogate the governments concerning a number of fundamental points, falling within the following domains : scope, period of protection, benefits, financial resources insurance carriers, settlement of disputes.

The following is the text of the conclusions adopted by the Conference concerning the question of the promotion of the welfare of seamen while in port :

The Conference,

Having examined the report submitted by the International Labour Office on the welfare of seamen in port,

Considers that the question of the welfare of seamen in port could be made the subject of a Draft Convention or Recommendation, and

Invites the International Labour Office to consult the Governments on the following principal points :

A.

I. Institution in all important ports, where no such arrangements already exist, of an authority or other officially recognised organisation comprising representatives of shipowners, seamen and the recognised institutions concerned for the following purposes :

(1) to promote and co-ordinate the necessary practical measures for the welfare of both national and foreign seamen, more particularly those indicated under (B), (C), (D) and (E) ;

(2) to collect, in co-operation with the other public authorities concerned, all informations as to the conditions prevailing in port and adjacent areas as may be necessary to enable the practical measures indicated above to be effectively carried out.

II. The desirability of the International Labour Office entering into contact with the Governments or the national committees to be set up for this purpose in order to promote collaboration between all the national organisations concerned.

B.

I. Adoption of legislative measures or regulations embodying among others the following measures, account being taken of national and local conditions :

1. Regulation of the sale of alcohol, including such measures as the reduction of the number of taverns in or near dock areas, the fixing of a closing time for such taverns or such other measures as may be practicable for protecting seamen against the dangers of alcoholism.

2. Application of the existing provisions restricting the sale and use of narcotics.

Necessity of instructing seamen in the dangers arising from the use of narcotics.

3. Prohibition of the employment of attendants of both sexes in public houses under a certain age.

4. Institution of official supervision of taverns, lodging-houses and hotels.

5. Supervision of persons visiting ships in order to prevent persons desiring to go on board with the intention of introducing alcoholic drinks or narcotics or for other undesirable purposes from having access thereto.

6. Sufficient lighting for docks and the fencing of dock areas, wherever such a measure is possible, by fixed or movable barriers.

7. Supervision of boatmen plying between the ships and the shore.

8. Removal from the port area of loafers and persons of no definite occupation.

II. Adoption of measures for enforcing the regulations, for example :

1. Organisation of special police forces for the port and its surroundings.

2. Improved co-operation between the consuls and the local authorities.

3. Greater practical facilities for seamen to communicate with their consul.

C.

Adoption of measures to protect the health of seamen and, in particular,

1. The prohibition of soliciting and enticing seamen in the harbour area.

2. Propaganda amongst seamen by national organisations, working if possible in contact with the voluntary organisations referred to in Article 25 of

the Covenant and the technical bodies with which they co-operate, concerning the dangers of tuberculous, tropical, venereal and other diseases ; the necessity for infected persons to receive attention ; and the available facilities for such attention.

3. The necessity for the organisation of prophylaxis and of free and accessible treatment for venereal diseases, as provided for by the Brussels Agreement of 1924, and the necessity of extending this Agreement to as many countries as possible.

4. The admission without difficulty of seamen of all nationalities and all religious beliefs to public hospitals and dispensaries in ports.

5. The extension as far as possible to foreign seamen of the provisions made in the national sphere for protection against tuberculosis.

D.

Adoption of measures relating more particularly to accommodation for seamen :

1. Provision of a sufficient number of hostels for seamen of all nationalities satisfying all the necessary conditions at a reasonable price and the institution of the official supervision mentioned in B. I (4).

2. Institution and development in all ports of a certain size of : meeting and recreation rooms (canteens and rooms for games) ; libraries ; sports organisations ; opportunities for excursions.

3. Extension of facilities in connection with the majority of hostels, homes and other institutions for seamen, or through other organisations for enabling seamen to deposit their wages and to transmit them to their families from foreign ports.

4. Steps to favour the general adoption of the system under which, as soon as a seaman is enrolled, he may allocate, if he so desires, part of his wages for regular remittance to his family.

E.

The possibility of propaganda being undertaken by official or voluntary bodies with a view to ensuring the success of the proposed measures.

F.

1. Indication of sources from which funds necessary for giving effect to the measures contemplated in the foregoing parts of the Conclusions may be drawn.

2. Possibility of some contribution from the funds of social insurance institutions.

Resolution.

The Conference requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to instruct the Office to enter into communication with the Transit Organisation of the League of Nations in order to urge the desirability of exempting officers and seamen possessing identity papers with their photographs attached duly issued by their national authorities, e.g. seamen's discharge books, from the requirement of presenting ordinary passports on disembarking in foreign countries.

The draft text submitted by the International Labour Office had further suggested the setting up of an International Institute for seamen's welfare but the Committee considered that the time was not yet ripe for the adoption of this suggestion.

In regard to the question of limiting the employment of female attendants in public houses, the committee came to the conclusion that the question of the employment of women in a particular occupation could not be settled in the absence of women members of the Committee. It decided, therefore, merely to refer to the desirability of fixing the minimum age of attendants of both sexes in public houses.

In regard to venereal diseases, the Committee was anxious to avoid giving the impression that venereal diseases were the only maladies from which seamen suffer. It desired especially to promote propaganda with a view to drawing the attention of seamen to the dangers of a number of diseases. It was also pointed out that the question of prophylactic measures and related questions had formed the subject of an agreement adopted at Brussels in 1924, and that the Conference had not therefore to concern itself with this point.

The Committee did not feel able to adopt the suggestion of the Office concerning the setting up of international hostels, to be under the supervision of the International Institute for seamen's welfare, or the provisional setting up of one hostel of this type ; this view followed on the decision not to create such an International Institute at the present time.

PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

International Conference on Seamen's Health and Welfare

The second International Conference on the Health and Welfare of Merchant Seamen, convened under the auspices of the Norwegian Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Association against Venereal Diseases, the International Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and the International Mercantile Marine Officers' Association, was held in Geneva from 7 to 9 October 1929, under the honorary presidency of Mr. Albert Thomas, Director of the International Labour Office.

The principal items on the agenda were :

The general problem of seamen's welfare in ports ;

Medical organisation in connection with health problems affecting seamen :

a) Tuberculosis ;

b) Venereal Diseases.

Seamen's welfare on board ship.

Papers were read by representatives of the principal maritime countries. Professor Léon Bernard, Secretary of the International Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, described the main lines of the campaign against tuberculosis, and Mr. Cavaillon, Secretary of the International Association against Venereal Diseases, submitted an

international report on the general principles of the campaign against venereal diseases and their application to seamen's conditions.

As a result of the discussion on tuberculosis among seamen, it was decided to ask the Permanent Joint Committee on Seamen's Health and Welfare, together with the International Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, to undertake the study of the question forthwith, and to report on it to a conference in the near future. It was also decided to ask the International Labour Organisation to approach all Governments with a view to facilitating research and the compilation of the necessary statistics.

As regards the campaign against venereal diseases, the Conference recognised the scientific value of the principles put forward by the general meeting of the International Association against Venereal Diseases, and decided to support them.

The Conference expressed the opinion that, in the interests of the mercantile marine, it would be desirable to set up an international organisation to co-ordinate the work of the existing national organisations. It welcomed the proposal of the International Labour Organisation to consider the question of an international convention concerning sickness insurance for seamen.

It was suggested that when international conventions on the subject of accommodation on board ship and the professional qualifications of seafarers are being discussed, the International Labour Organisation should study the possibility of laying down international regulations providing for the maintenance of adequate quarters for the treatment of patients on board ships which carry no doctors. It further suggested that practical training in hygiene and first aid for future mercantile marine officers should be organised or improved in all countries.

(Industrial and Labour Information.)
I.L.O. — 28th October 1929.

International Save the Children Union.

During the last few months the activities of the International Save the Children Union have been marked by two events : the tenth meeting of the General Assembly, which was held from the 29th to the 31st of August this year, and the celebration of the tenth anniversary in December. These events were besides linked together to a certain extent, for the meeting of the General Assembly, after ten years of activity, had a quite special significance.

The economic and social conditions of to-day are no longer those of 1920. It was therefore necessary to adapt the International Save the Children Union, which had been founded to help the starving children of

Europe, to the new tasks before the organisation to-day. The material conditions in Europe have improved, and the field of work of the organisation is spreading out in two directions : first of all in the nature of its work, as it no longer only gives assistance in emergencies, but, on the basis of the Declaration of Geneva, is occupied with questions connected with children, and wishes to collaborate with all the national and international organisations which are working in this field.

The organisation is becoming more and more the international centre by which its numerous member and affiliated organisations can get in contact with similar organisations in other countries.

The work of the organisation is also extending geographically as it no longer wishes to be limited to one continent, but desires to come to the aid of children in other parts of the world.

The readers of " Life and Work " have already heard about the inquiry undertaken into the condition of children of non-European origin. A questionnaire which has been drawn up in collaboration with particularly well qualified experts and missionaries is now being distributed.

The organisation thus hopes to be able to gain a great deal of information, which will serve as the basis of a serious action in favour of these children.

At the end of its ten years of work both the International Save the Children Union and a great many of its member and affiliated organisations felt the desire to show by various ceremonies their gratitude towards all those who had helped them to continue their work during the preceding years, and to express their faith and confidence in being able, in the future, to live up to the still immense task which awaits them.

In Geneva an anniversary celebration was held in the " Grand Théâtre " on Sunday, December 1st, with the aid of the children of the foreign colony of Geneva and of the elementary school children.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

The Church Lends a Hand. By James Myers. Harper and Co. New York.

The book gives a vivid presentation of the social problems and the social activity of the churches in America. It is intended for popular reading, and depicts in lively fashion the intervention of the American Research Bureau of the Federal Council in the complex social questions of the present day. A. K.

The Soul of the Prisoner. Translated from the Norwegian by Gunther Ruprecht. Vanderhoek Ruprecht, Göttingen.

Present-day sociology seeks not only to penetrate the social and economic structure of the various social classes, but also to throw light on their psychology. This is only possible on the basis of a close and intimate study of their living conditions. The world of the prisoner is here viewed by one who, as an inspector of prisons, not only shared the life of the prisoners, but endeavoured, with the aid of an acute psychological understanding, to enter into their mental outlook. The result is a very valuable and interesting book, which forms a contribution to social psychology and a stimulus to a better understanding and more suitable treatment of this class of men throughout society. A. K.

Unemployment. By Ruth Kennyon (The Christian Social Council. London. 1d.

The author gives, in a few pages, an extremely clear and impressive introduction to the problem of unemployment. Beginning with a survey of the three main forms of unemployment, due respectively to cyclical fluctuations in industry, seasonal work, and casual labour such as that of dock workers, she proceeds to give an excellent description of the development of unemployment since the war up to the present time. The chief causes of the gradual increase of the evil and its culmination in the present situation of permanent unemployment are convincingly shown. Finally, from the standpoint of the Christian, who will never abandon faith in the possibility of a solution going to the roots of the problem, a study is made of the main lines on which attempts should be made to solve it or at any rate to combat its chief evils. This short but valuable booklet closes with an indication of the English literature which may be recommended for a further study of the question. It is to be hoped that the booklet will be very widely read.

H. Sch.

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The Report of the International Christian Social Institute on " The Churches and Sailors Missions and the Welfare of Seamen ", which was approved by the Continuation Committee at its Conference in Eisenach, will be published at the end of January in an extended form. The report, was submitted to the International Labour Office in the spring of 1929, and printed copies were presented to all the members of the International Conference on Seamen held in October. It also contains, in its extended form, a comprehensive survey of the work done by the International Labour Organisation for the promotion of the welfare of seamen since its creation.